

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Snyder of Berlin

Catalyst Connection

A New Plant Layout At Snyder Of Berlin Reduces Costs, Nets Savings

Client Profile:

Snyder of Berlin, a subsidiary of Birds Eye Foods, has produced quality snack foods—including potato chips, kettle chips, pretzels, popcorn, cheese curls, corn puffs, and tortilla chips—for over 50 years. From its 186,000 square foot facility in Berlin, Pennsylvania, Snyder's 375 employees contribute to the production of over 14 million pounds of potato chips yearly. Snyder's annual sales total approximately \$64 million.

Situation:

Snyder wanted to eliminate an inefficient pull cart system and increase its storage space and warehousing efficiency in order to move product faster and improve material flow. While planning a new layout for its warehousing system and practices, Snyder engaged Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, to conduct a team-based process flow analysis.

Solution:

Using a team-based approach, Catalyst Connection and Snyder employees worked together to develop a value stream map of the existing warehouse layout. They analyzed the map to identify the eight wastes (overproduction, waiting, transportation, excess processing, excess inventory, defects, excess motion, and under-utilized people) in specific manufacturing tasks, and brainstormed more efficient ways to eliminate non-value-added activities.

The team decided to make physical changes to the warehouse layout, and Catalyst Connection began collecting data on storage locations, warehouse capacity, pickfaces, and product travel distance. Based on the collected data, Catalyst Connection created multi-conceptual CAD layouts of the proposed changes for Snyder's consideration. The layout Snyder selected required new material handling equipment to replace the old pull cart, and Catalyst Connection arranged for several equipment vendors to visit Snyder and present their options.

Results:

Selected a new plant layout.

Reduced operating costs by eliminating an obsolete pull cart system.

Saving between \$80,000 and \$120,000 annually.

Increased cases loaded per shift by 30 percent.

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Consolidated job responsibilities to increase productivity.

Testimonial:

“When we began our project with Catalyst Connection, we wanted to gain space and improve efficiency in our warehouse. Now, our cases loaded per shift is up 30 percent, our labor/supervision cooperation has improved, and to date, we’ve realized an annual savings of between \$80,000 and \$120,000. We will go back to Catalyst Connection for more.”

David Smith, Facility Manager